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COUNTRY

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Guatemala/Honduras

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SUBJECT

Guatemalan Communist Support for
Liberal Party, Honduras

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Guatemala, Guatemala City (23 December
1953)

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REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: Paragraph 1: Newspaperman with a wide acquaintance in Communist Labor Circles (B)

Paragraphs 2-5: Former member of the Guardia Civil (C).

Appraisal of Content: 3.

1. On 16 December 1953, from a conversation among leading Guatemalan Communists, including Victor Manuel GUTIERREZ, it was evident that, although they desire the downfall of the Partido Nacionalista in the next Honduran elections, they have no sympathy for the Liberal Party of Honduras. The general opinion, expressed by GUTIERREZ, was that the defeat of the Partido Nacionalista, if followed by a more liberal regime, would provide the Communists with an opportunity to infiltrate the labor movement of Honduras. The Guatemalan Communists also expressed sympathy for the members of the Partido Democratico Revolucionario Hondureño (PDRH)¹ in exile in Guatemala.
2. On 17 December 1953 a member of the Confederacion General de Trabajadores de Guatemala (CGTG) stated that, according to Rodolfo LOPEZ Duron, an exiled Honduran residing in Guatemala, Communist activities in Honduras were planned in Guatemala and instructions were transmitted to Honduran Communists by messengers from Guatemala. However, any knowledge of financial aid from Guatemalan Communists to influence the elections in Honduras was disclaimed.
3. Rene SAMAYOA, a member of the Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT - Guatemalan Communist Party), stated that Jacinto LOZANO Zelaya, Jorge Alberto CUSTODIO Lopez, and Ernesto MIALLOS Fonseca, exiled Honduran students residing in Guatemala, are serving as cutouts between the Communist Party of Honduras and Guatemalan Communists. They reportedly make regular border contacts with Honduran Communists. SAMAYOA added that the headquarters of the Communist Party in Honduras is located in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.
4. On 23 December 1953 Jose MATUTE, a Honduran political exile residing in Guatemala, declared that liberal forces in Honduras and exiled Hondurans in Guatemala are planning an armed movement to prevent the re-election of Juan Manuel GALVEZ or

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Tiburcio CARIAS to the presidency. MATUTE did not divulge the names of the persons allegedly involved in the conspiracy, nor did he indicate when action might be expected.

5. MATUTE also claimed that Guatemalan Communists give material aid to the Communist Party of Honduras, but he added that the anti-GALVEZ, anti-CARIAS movement is not supported by the Communists, since the liberals are against Communism. In fact, according to MATUTE, special care is being taken to prevent Guatemalan authorities from hearing about the movement, since they feel sure they would be jailed or deported to Honduras if the ARBENZ government knew that a liberal, anti-Communist movement was being planned -- in part -- in Guatemala against GALVEZ and/or CARIAS.

1. Source Comment. In view of the opinions expressed by GUTIERREZ and his friends, it seems doubtful that Guatemalan Communists are extending financial help to the Honduran Liberal Party.
2. Field Comment. SAMAYOA did not indicate how, when, where, or how frequently such contacts are made.

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